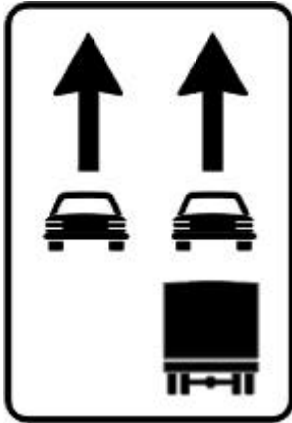


The Passing Lane

A JOURNAL OF TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
from the Washington State County Road Administration Board

Volume 4 Issue 4
September 1997



Design Conference 1997 - October 15-17

Join us for two full days and one half day of systems and engineering topics which promise to be both exciting and informative. Start Tuesday evening with the early bird social to get reacquainted with old friends. Then get plenty of rest because there's a lot of ground to cover in a short period of time.

☒ General Sessions

Each morning session starts with a general session featuring leaders in the field of computing systems for engineering, starting with Scott Davidson from McNeel and Associates in Seattle and their newest version of Accrender, an industry-leading presentation rendering software. Don't sleep late on Thursday either because Robert Angrisano, a senior engineer from Microsoft will be presenting and answering your questions about their next generation of operating systems, Windows 98 and NT 5.0. Friday morning is jammed with topics. Starting with CRAB's own Gene Ryser who will be sharing his experiences about how to share information over the Internet. There will be a representative from Visio in Seattle, who will be demonstrating Phoenix, a new AutoCAD and Eagle Point compatible CAD product. Drew Leino from Eagle Point will be wrapping up on Friday by giving us our first full demonstration of Civil 97, the successor to the Advantage Series 13.x products you may be currently running. This is a must see for all Eagle Point customers. If you are unable to attend the entire conference, and you're using or are interested in Eagle Point, then we encourage you to attend this special Friday session. Please phone John or Jim if you want more information about Civil 97 or about this presentation.

☒ Workshops

Expect fewer, but larger and longer duration workshops this year with more time for participant questions and interaction with the speakers. On Wednesday, we welcome Kari Rokstad from the Department of Ecology who will be sharing her experiences operating the permit assistance center. Tony Allen from WSDOT Materials will be presenting the program of geotechnical services that are available to WSDOT design staff. Also on Wednesday see a demonstration of Caice, the new

Inside this issue:

- Design Conference '97
- Training Season Smash
- Notes to know
- Civil 97 sooner than later

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design software at WSDOT. Finally, CRAB will be presenting techniques for using AutoCAD, and AutoCAD resident software (Eagle Point), in designing civil projects faster and more intuitively.

Thursday workshops are another mix of practical and systems topics. Thursday morning features the Thurston County surveying section and their systems for using CAD data in Geographic Information systems and using real-time GPS surveying for data collection. Later on we'll welcome Mark DeGross from DeGross Mapping and several county representatives in a discussion of how to best specify photogrammetric data for use in civil construction basemapping. And in her first conference appearance, Chris Mudgett, formerly of Snohomish County, will be leading a discussion about some of the important changes to the legal aspects of utility uses in public right-of-way. These changes are scheduled to have an effect on how all of us develop projects in cooperation with utilities.

☒ Where do I sign up?

This part is simple. You should have already received a handsome, two color brochure by surface mail. Some of you may have even gotten it by FAX. Here's the drill:

Step One - FAX a completed Registration Form featuring the names of all the folks from your county or section who are attending, to CRAB at (360) 586-0386.

Step Two - Mail a check or Purchase Order for the total amount due to the address on the Registration Form. Do all this by October 6 or suffer financial penalty and the severe verbal abuse of your peers.

☒ Why should I go?

This is simply the most efficient, cheapest, and funnest way to get the type of information which affects your work and the systems you use in important ways. This is YOUR conference. More than ever, this conference happens because you showed up. Your support and comments will continue to help make it as lively and informative as it's reputation.



NWPMA FALL CONFERENCE

The Northwest Pavement Management Association will be holding their annual Fall Conference in Yakima on October 28th through the 30th. Details are in the September issue of the NWPMA Newsletter or contact Dave Whitcher here at CRAB.

New Classes this Year!

Be sure to check the enclosed Training Catalog for some changes to this year's training schedule.



New this season is an Introduction to the IMPACT program developed by your friendly CRAB staff programmers. We've changed the CRIS Reporting workshop to include an introduction to IMPACT. Parties

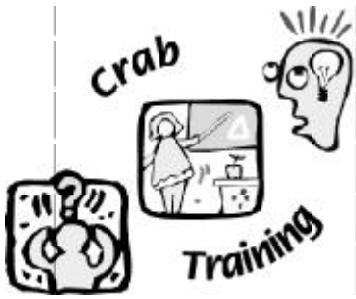
interested in being able to plot accidents to a diagram using the CRIS Accident data should definitely check this out! The combined class will feature some advanced CRIS reporting methods and then demonstrate using the IMPACT program. You can download IMPACT from the CRAB ftp site at <ftp:crab.wa.gov> as mentioned in the last Passing Lane.

Another new development is a change in the start times for the Eagle Point classes. To accommodate the traveling public (that's you), Eagle Point classes will begin at 1pm on the first day, go from 9am-4pm on the second day, and the third day will wrap up around lunch time to let you get back home at a decent hour. It's still a two day class, just spread out over three. The four day classes will operate the same way - so be sure to check that start time when signing up!

We're also excited about a new Eagle Point class we're introducing this fall called Project Development. To qualify, you should have completed the Eagle Point fundamentals course and have, at the minimum, project basemap data and an idea about the project goals. You'll be joined by others in Olympia who will share their ideas about how to accomplish each other's designs using Eagle Point software.

Take a few moments and read through the Catalog and remember, our classes are always free! Come join us this year and we'll even provide the coffee! Well, okay, we always have, but come anyway! See you here!





Training Season!

Be sure to read about the changes in CRAB Training offerings in this very issue of the Passing Lane. Remember, training is always free!

Call CRAB and sign up today! And... Without further ado, the schedule:

October:

- 6 Introduction to CRIS
- 7 CRIS Reporting
- 8 Reporting Workshop/IMPACT Intro
- 9-10 Intro to County Pavement Management System
- 21 Internet Workshop
- 23 Bridge Management System
- 24 Maintenance Management System

November:

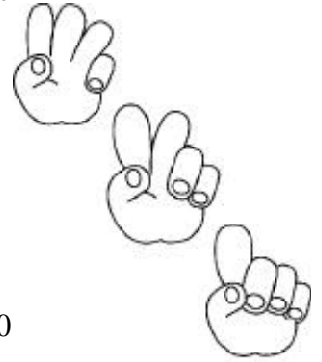
- 4-7 Eagle Point Fundamentals
- 12 Introduction to CRIS
- 13 CRIS Reporting
- 14 Reporting Workshop/IMPACT Intro
- 18-21 Eagle Point Project Development

December:

- 1 Introduction to CRIS
- 2 CRIS Reporting
- 3 Reporting Workshop/IMPACT Intro
- 4-5 Intro to County Pavement Management System
- 9-12 Eagle Point Fundamentals
- 15 Internet Workshop
- 18 Bridge Management System

Counting down to Civil 97

AutoCAD has released Release 14 and Eagle Point is expected to release Civil 97, it's replacement for your current 13.x version, on or about November 1st. It will not run in DOS or Windows 3.x. CRAB sublicense holders will receive the same modules they are running now at no cost. Those holding copies of Prosurveyor should contact Tami Holl at 800 678-6565 x 460 to get more information about how your upgrades will work. Civil 97 will be demonstrated at the Public Works Design Conference this fall.



Version 13.1-B is the minimum copy everybody should be running. Check your version by reading the title bar on your project manager screen. This version includes the fix for the -2 pcode that was addressed by the RCAWCOOR.ARX file on the CRAB ftp site. Version 13.2 provides access to ARX objects in the surface modeling module, although we've seen some odd occurrences when trying to XREF drawings with these objects. Even in Release 14. So for now, if you plan on cutting plan/profile sheets, you may want to produce contours, TINs, and elevation labels as standard AutoCAD entities. *Thanks to Bruce Klug at Clark and Don Pogreba at Thurston for the tip.*

Another issue is that Eagle Point 13.x appears to count the first station twice in estimating volumes using the station range option (Roadcalc/Volumes/Earthwork/Settings). The workaround is to specify a station immediately beyond the first station (e.g., use 13+50.1 instead of 13+50). *Thanks to Bruce Klug at Clark County Public Works for the tip.*

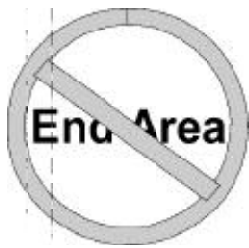
Watch out when producing catchpoint polylines in Roadcalc/Alignments/Catchpoints. Odd occasions cause the cut situation to end up as a fill line and vice-versa. We're still trying to track the situation that causes this result. Until then, best to check this result against the sections before continuing. *Thanks to Bruce Klug at Clark and Greg Peterson and Bruce Dawson at Douglas for the tip.*

CEAGLE Notes to know about

CEAGLE preview version 2.0 fixes a few obvious problems. Try it out Bruce Klug reports its definitely faster at duplicate point detection (the big time hog in map translation).

A new lisp command for offsetting 3d polylines for use in running Eagle Point templates for roadway widening (3DOFFSET.LSP) is now available on FTP. This program and the design issue it addresses will be featured along with a more general workshop on working with alignments and profiles in template processing at the Fall Conference.

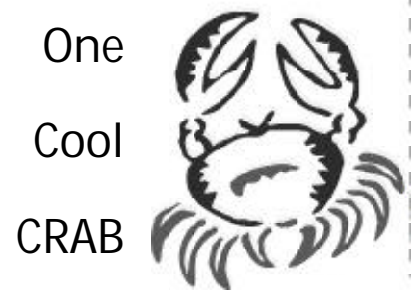
And "Ooops..."



The last Passing Lane announced that CEAGLE would translate CEAL endarea files. This is not the case at this time.

Did you know?

Eagle Point replaces certain AutoCAD commands with their own slightly modified version. This is done to prevent the duplication of certain extended entity data - that extra, hidden information that third party applications like Eagle Point put on AutoCAD entities. Now this won't cause a problem until you try and run a command line from a lisp routine. If your lisp routines are returning with an error like "unknown command 'copy'", then you know what I'm talking about. Change any lisp "command" statements to be preceded by a dot. This tells the Autolisp processor to go look for the native AutoCAD command.



One

Cool

CRAB

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